Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently amended). A therapeutic method for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases of the posterior segment of the eye selected from the group consisting of bacterial or fungal endophthalmitis, viral retinitis, vitreoretinopathy, toxoplasmosis, uveitis, tumours, vascular diseases, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and glaucoma, said method comprising the intravenous or topical ocular administration of a therapeutically effective amount of ~~solid lipidic nanoparticles (SLN) comprising~~ a pharmacologically active substance suitable for the treatment of said ophthalmic diseases, said active substance being incorporated into solid lipidic nanoparticles (SLN) ~~wherein said SLNs are prepared~~ by:

a) admixing a molten lipid substance containing a drug or its complex with a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a cosurfactant and optionally a counterion of the drug, pre-warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting

temperature of said lipid substance, thus obtaining a microemulsion having a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance;

b) dispersing the microemulsion obtained in step a) in water or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised between 2 and 5.degree.C., thus obtaining a dispersion of solid lipidic nanoparticles incorporating the drug;

c) washing the dispersion obtained in step b) with water or with an aqueous medium by diafiltration with the almost total elimination of the surfactant and the cosurfactant;

d) drying the dispersion obtained in step c) by lyophilisation or by spray drying or by evaporation, thus obtaining the solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) with the drug incorporated.

Claims 12-21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein the microemulsion obtained in step a) is added to a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a co-surfactant and optionally a lipid warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of the lipid and the mixture thus obtained is dispersed in water or in an aqueous

medium cooled to a temperature from 2 to 5° C.

Claim 23 (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein at the end of step a) a substance suitable for stabilising the SLNs is added selected from the group comprising dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG, diacyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG (PEG M. W. 750-2000) and fatty acids pegylated with PEG-methylethers (PEG M.W. 750-2000).

Claim 24 (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein the lipid of said SLNs is selected from the group comprising trilaurine, tricapriloin, tristearine, tripalmitine, capric/caprylic triglycerides, dipalmitine, distearine, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl palmitostearate, cetylic alcohol, stearylic alcohol, fatty acids having C10-C22 chains, cholesterol, cholesteryl hemisuccinate, cholesteryl butyrate and cholesteryl palmitate.

Claim 25 (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir, famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine, .beta.-interferon, paclitaxel,

methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol and acetazolamide.

Claim 26 (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein the dosage for intravenous administration is an amount of said composition containing 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance per kilogram of body weight.

Claim 27 (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according claim 11, wherein the dosage for topical ocular administration is an amount of said composition containing 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance for each eye.

Claim 28 (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content comprised from 0.1 and 7.0%.